

CLAIMS

1. A printed circuit panel exposure machine comprising:

• a first artwork support comprising a substantially rectangular frame and a transparent plate suitable for receiving said artwork, said plate being secured via its periphery to said frame;

• a second artwork support constituted by a substantially rectangular frame and a transparent plate secured via its periphery to said frame and suitable for receiving said artwork, one of said supports being movable relative to the other, said panel being designed to be placed between said supports;

• means for providing sealing between said frames of said supports when said frames are pressed one against the other; and

• means for establishing suction in the volume defined by said frame, said sealing means, and said support;

said machine being characterized in that it further comprises:

• at least one deformable leaktight balloon disposed between said transparent plate around at least a portion of said panel;

• a source of gas under pressure at a pressure greater than the pressure of said suction; and

• at least one pipe for causing said balloon to communicate with said source of pressure thus serving, when suction is established in said volume, to cause the periphery of said transparent plate to press against said balloon.

2. A machine according to claim 1, characterized in that it includes a plurality of leaktight deformable balloons surrounding said panel, each balloon being connected to said source of gas under pressure by a pipe, said balloons occupying the major fraction of the space

extending between the periphery of said panel and the frames.

3. A machine according to claim 1 or claim 2,
5 characterized in that it further comprises a plurality of mechanical spacers interposed between said frame and said support.

4. A machine according to claim 3, characterized in that
10 said spacers are adjustable in thickness.

5. A machine according to any one of claims 1 to 4,
characterized in that said deformable leaktight
balloon(s) is/are of horizontal dimensions much greater
15 than its/their thickness.

6. A machine according to any one of claims 1 to 5,
characterized in that it includes a plurality of sets of
deformable leaktight balloons of dimensions adapted to
20 the dimensions of panels to be exposed.